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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, December 7, 2009, at 10:30 a.m.

Senate

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2009

The Senate met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, the source of our strength, as we labor this weekend, we are grateful for Your keeping power. Lord, You sustain us and this land we love through dangers seen and unseen. Your faithfulness and mercy astound us, for throughout our Nation's history, Your loving providence has guided us through sunshine and storms.

Today, accompany our Senators in their work. May they feel Your presence, hear Your whisper, and follow Your leading. Remind them of the momentous nature of the work they seek to accomplish, as they remember that history will critique their labors. Help them also to take solace in the fact that they are ultimately accountable to You. We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK BEGICH led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 6, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BEGICH thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3590, the health care reform legislation. The time until 3:15 p.m. will be equally divided. The majority will control the first hour, the Republicans will control the next hour. The remaining time will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

At 3:15 p.m., the Senate will proceed to vote in relation to the Lincoln amendment, No. 2905, related to executive compensation, to be followed by a vote in relation to the Ensign amend-

ment, No. 2927, relating to attorney's fees.

We are working on the next amendments in order and hope to have them ready for votes this afternoon. Senators will be notified if additional votes are scheduled after the votes at 3:15 p.m.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, first, I wish to extend a welcome to the President, who is coming to the Capitol today to meet with Democrats on the subject of the health care bill.

So far, they have voted to cut Medicare three times—cuts they previously described as immoral and irresponsible; cuts that made it impossible for the President to keep his pledge that people who like their plans can keep them; cuts that will reduce the quality of home health care; cuts that will reduce benefits for nearly 11 million American seniors on Medicare Advantage; cuts that raid Medicare instead of fixing it; and cuts the American people vehemently oppose.

Democrats are in a tough situation on this bill. They want to expand the government's reach into health care, but they do not have the money, and they don't have the support, more importantly, of the American people. So

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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